

GLOSSARY AND LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Acre-foot. The volume that would cover one acre to a depth of one foot; 43,560 cubic feet; 1,233.5 cubic meters; 325,872 gallons.

Aquifer. A geologic formation or series of formations which yield water in sufficient quantities to be a valuable source of supply.

Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR). The injection of freshwater into a confined aquifer during times when supply exceeds demand (wet season), and recovering it during times when there is a supply deficit (dry season).

Aquifer System. A series of geologic formations which consist of two or more aquifers divided by lower permeability units.

AWWA. American Water Works Association.

Backpumping. The practice of pumping water that is leaving the area back into a surface water reservoir.

Basin (Ground Water). A hydrologic unit containing one large aquifer or several connecting and interconnecting aquifers.

Basin (Surface Water). A tract of land drained by a surface water body or its tributaries.

BEBR. Bureau of Economic and Business Research; a division of the University of Florida.

Best Management Practices (BMPs). Agricultural management activities designed to achieve an important goal, such as reducing farm runoff, or optimizing water use.

BOD. Biological Oxygen Demand.

BOR. Basis of Review.

Brackish. Water with a chloride level greater than 250 mg/L and less than 19,000 mg/L.

CARL. Conservation and Recreational Lands.

COD. Chemical Oxygen Demand.

Cone of Influence. The area around a producing well which will be affected by its operation.

Control Structure. A man-made structure designed to regulate the level and/or flow of water in a canal (e.g., weirs, dams).

Conservation Rate Structure. A water rate structure that is designed to conserve water. Examples of conservation rate structures include but are not limited to, increasing block rates, seasonal rates and quantity-based surcharges.

Critical Water Supply Problem

Areas. Areas that have experienced, or are anticipated to experience water supply problems in the next 20 years.

Demand. The quantity of water needed to be withdrawn to fulfill a requirement.

Demand Management (Water Conservation).

Reducing the demand for water through activities that alter water use practices, improve efficiency in water use, reduce losses of water, reduce waste of water, alter land management practices and/or alter land uses.

Desalination. A process which treats saline water to remove chlorides and dissolved solids.

Drawdown. When a well is pumped, water is removed from the aquifer surrounding the well, and the water table or piezometric surface is lowered. The drawdown at a given point is the distance the water level is dropped.

Effective Rainfall. The portion of rainfall that infiltrates the soil and is stored for plant use in the crop root zone, as calculated by the modified Blaney-Criddle model.

Exotic Nuisance Plant Species.

A non-native species which tends to out-compete native species and become quickly established, especially in areas of disturbance or where the normal hydroperiod has been altered.

FAS. Floridan Aquifer System.

FASS. Florida Agricultural and Statistics Service; a division of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

FDACS. Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

FDEP. Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection.

Flatwoods (Pine). Natural communities that occur on level land and are characterized by a dominant overstory of slash pine. Depending upon soil drainage characteristics and position in the landscape, pine flatwoods habitats can exhibit xeric to moderately wet conditions.

GPD. Gallons per day.

GPM. Gallons per minute.

Ground Water. All water found beneath the surface of the earth in the voids, fractures, and pores or other openings of soil and rock material.

Hydroperiod. The frequency and duration of inundation or saturation of an ecosystem. In the context of characterizing wetlands, the term hydroperiod describes that length of time during the year that the substrate is either saturated or covered with water.

IFAS. The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences; the agricultural branch of the University of Florida, including research, education, and extension.

Infiltration. The movement of water through the soil surface into the soil under the forces of gravity and capillarity.

Inorganic. Pertaining to or composed of chemical compounds other than plant or animal origin.

Irrigation. The application of water to crops by artificial means. Purposes for irrigating may include, but are not limited to, supplying evapotranspiration needs, leaching of salts, and environmental control.

Irrigation Audit. A procedure in which an irrigation system's application rate and uniformity are measured.

Irrigation Efficiency. The average percent of total water pumped or delivered for use that is stored in the plant's root zone.

Irrigation Uniformity. A measure of the spatial variability of applied or infiltrated water over the field.

Lake Okeechobee. This lake measures 730 square miles and is the second largest freshwater lake wholly within the United States.

Levee. An embankment to prevent flooding, or a continuous dike or ridge for confining the irrigation areas of land to be flooded.

Marsh. A frequently or continually inundated wetland characterized by emergent herbaceous vegetation adapted to saturated soil conditions.

MCL. Maximum contaminant level.

MG. Million gallons.

MGD. Million gallons per day.

mg/L. Milligrams per liter.

MGY. Million gallons per year.

Micro Irrigation. The application of water directly to, or very near to the soil surface in drops, small streams, or sprays.

Mobile Irrigation Laboratory. A vehicle furnished with irrigation evaluation equipment which is used to carry out on-site evaluations of irrigation systems and to provide recommendations on improving irrigation efficiency.

NGVD. National Geodetic Vertical Datum; reference sea level from which elevations are measured.

Organics. Being composed of, or containing matter of, plant and animal origin.

Permeability. Defines the ability of a rock or sediment to transmit fluid.

Potable Water. Water that is suitable for drinking, cooking, and other domestic purposes. The maximum chloride concentration is 250 mg/L.

Potentiometric Surface. An imaginary surface representing the total head of ground water.

Process Water. Water used for nonpotable industrial usage, e.g., mixing cement.

Public Water Supply (PWS) Utilities. Utilities that provide potable water for public use.

Reclaimed Water. Water that has received at least secondary treatment and is reused after flowing out of a wastewater treatment facility.

Reuse. The deliberate application of water that has received at least secondary treatment, in compliance with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Water Management District rules, for a beneficial purpose.

Reverse Osmosis (RO). The process of pressurizing a saline solution to force it through a semi-permeable membrane and separate water from solutes.

Retrofitting. The replacement of existing water fixtures, appliances and devices with more efficient fixtures, appliances and devices for the purpose of water conservation.

SAS. Surficial Aquifer System.

Seepage Irrigation Systems. Irrigation systems which convey water through open ditches. Water is either applied to the soil surface (possibly in furrows) and held for a period of time to allow infiltration, or is applied to the soil subsurface by raising the water table to wet the root zone.

Semi-Closed Irrigation Systems. Irrigation systems which convey water through closed pipes, and distribute it to the crop through open furrows between crop rows.

Semi-Confining Layers. Layers with little or no vertical flow that can store ground water and also transmit it slowly from one aquifer to another. The rate of vertical flow is dependent on the head differential between the semi-confining beds and those above and below them.

Slough. A channel in which water moves sluggishly, or a place of deep muck, mud or mire. Sloughs are wetland habitats that serve as channels for water draining off surrounding uplands and/or wetlands.

Stage. The elevation of the top of a surface water body.

Standard Project Flood (SPF).

A hypothetical flood resulting from the most severe combination of meteorological and hydrological conditions that are reasonably characteristic of a region. It is comparable to historical great floods which have been reported.

Storm Water. Rainfall that does not percolate into the ground or evaporate.

Superfund Sites. A contamination site of such magnitude that it has been designated by the federal government as eligible for federal funding to insure cleanup.

SWIM Plans. Surface Water Improvement and Management Plans, prepared according to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes.

TAZ. Traffic analysis zone, a geographic area used in transportation planning.

Transmissivity. This is the rate at which water is transmitted through a unit width of aquifer under a unit hydraulic gradient. It is a function of the permeability and thickness of the aquifer, and is used to judge its production potential.

Turbidity. The measure of suspended material in a liquid.

Uplands. Elevated areas which are characterized by nonsaturated soil conditions and support flatwood vegetation.

USACE. United States Army Corps of Engineers.

USEPA. United States Environmental Protection Agency.

USFWS. United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

USGS. United States Geological Survey.

Wastewater. The combination of liquid and waterborne discharges from residences, commercial buildings, industrial plants and institutions together with any ground water, surface runoff or leachate that may be present.

Water Supply Plans. These plans are regional water resource and demand analyses. They are District generated, and provide a detailed evaluation of available water supply and projected demands.

Wetlands. Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

Xeriscape. The use of landscaping techniques to conserve water and reduce maintenance.